

"Call on God to whom all creation submits
and give tip
the enemies within the self; call on Him whom
all righteous men worship, the Lord of all good, the
King of the
Universe."

Kanakadasa was a shepherd by birth,
became a
disciple of the same Vyasarayya who probably
was
Purandaradasa's preceptor and was held in
great respect by his teacher and friends. Some
stories are told
of this saint which suggest that his rise in
the preceptor's favour was not quite pleasing to
persons who
were conscious of their superior caste.
One story
states that the preceptor wanted to teach
the grumblers a lesson and one day in open assembly
called to
him some of these men as well as
Kanakadasa and
gave each a plantain with the direction
that they
should eat it where they would not be
seen. They
all went out and came back later,
Kanakadasa last.
Kanakadasa brought the fruit intact. The others
had eaten
theirs. The preceptor asked them all what
they had
done. One man said that he ate his
under water in
a pond; one that he stood in a closed room
and ate it.
Thus each mentioned some place where no
human eye
could have seen him. Kanakadasa was
asked why he
did not eat the fruit. He said " I could not
eat it
anywhere. You told me that I should eat it
unseen.
Wherever I went I felt that God's eyes
were on me/*
** See " said the teacher. " That is why

Kanakadasa is
better than the rest of us. We all know that
God is
everywhere but we do not act in
realisation of the
truth. He realises it and it comes out in
all his
actions/' A tradition at Udupi runs to the
effect that
when Kanakadasa came to the temple to
worship and